

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application.

By this amendment, claims 17-18 are cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to present claims 17-18 in a divisional application.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, which the Examiner has indicated as corresponding to Claims 1-16.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Species I, which the Examiner has indicated as corresponding to the embodiment shown in Figure 4. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 16 are directly readable on Species I.

However, Figure 4 is generic as it illustrates the current collecting terminal 34 with its inner surface covered with a layer of ductile electrically conductive material 36 prior to being deformed and crimped onto the ends of any of the current collectors of the stacks of electrochemical cell laminates shown in Figs 2-10A.

The election of Species requirement was based on a number of distinct species identified by the Examiner with reference to drawings that illustrate variants of the ends of the current collector elements of the electrochemical cell laminates which are thereafter crimped with the current collecting terminal 34 and ductile electrically conductive material 36 shown in Figure 4. The Applicants believe that all of the claims currently pending cover the species shown in Figure 4, identified by the Examiner as Species I. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 16 are generic and claims 3-9 which depend from claim 1 as well as claims 12-15 which depend from claim 11, add limitations to the current collector element.

This election is made with traverse.

At the time of filing of the present response, no fees were believed to be necessary. In case any fee should be necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to debit Deposit Account number 502977.

Respectfully submitted,

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